

## Cozy, comfortable and inviting: Indiana Bed & Breakfasts

By Sally Campbell Grout

From the fresh sheets to the comfort food to the host knowing your name, a stay at an Indiana Bed & Breakfast can provide a relaxing and pampering experience. While some of Indiana's favorite "B and Bs" are located near some of the state's favorite attractions, others are tucked away in their own little worlds. Each offers a unique experience; here are just a few found throughout the state.

### **You'll have a craving for honey.**

You've gotta love this. The innkeepers of the Bee Hive Bed & Breakfast in Middlebury (574-825-5023) are named Herb and Treva Swarm. And they invite you to spend some time in their establishment to learn more about the area's Amish community. This cozy farmhouse with four guestrooms features rough-hewn timber and open beams, and the beds are covered in homemade quilts. You'll feel so warm and comfy, you may not want to get up in the morning--until you smell the hearty country breakfast cooking. In the evening, join in an old-fashioned sing along as Herb plays his accordion. Amish Heartland tours are also available.

### **Bring your binoculars.**

It's not just people who enjoy staying at Songbird Prairie Bed & Breakfast in Valparaiso (877-766-4273). Wild animals like it to—or at least the area around it. Located in lush, botanically rich wetlands, Songbird Prairie is a Certified Wildlife Habitat. But rest assured, your hosts Barbara and Efrain Rivera have made sure that the inside of this four-guestroom establishment is pretty spectacular, too. Rooms have songbird themes (such as bluebird and cardinal) and features a queen or king sized beds, fireplaces, private baths, and Jacuzzis. To fortify you for a day in the fresh air, start with a three-course breakfast in a sunroom that overlooks the woods the songbirds call home.

### **Queen Victoria would feel right at home.**

They may have worn some pretty uncomfortable clothes, but people from the Victorian era sure knew how to build a beautiful home. And the Kimmell House Inn Bed & Breakfast in Kimmell (888-892-2194) proves that very point. Your hosts Dean and Deb Stoops make this 1876 Italianate home, located on 12 acres, an incredibly comfortable place to stay; each of the three guestrooms has a television, bathrobes, and antique bureaus. Along with a full hot breakfast served each day, the Kimmell House Inn also offers homemade snacks. Outside, you're welcome to sit a spell on the porch swing or stroll the beautiful grounds and gardens.

### **An appropriate second life.**

When it was built 100 or so years ago, the inn that's now the Fruitt Basket Inn in North Manchester (260-982-2443) served as a tourist home and boarding house. So how fitting that hosts Sharon and Randy Fruitt now welcome you to this Bed & Breakfast to stay in one of four guestrooms, and to enjoy a delightful breakfast. Impressed by the décor? You might not be surprised to learn that the Fruitt's other business is interior design.

**A place for everyone.**

While Bed & Breakfasts are usually thought of as romantic retreats, they can also be a good spot for the family—especially when the family heads to the Hoosier Haven Inn Bed & Breakfast in Perrysville (765-793-2439). If it's just the two of you, you can rent one bedroom of this two-bedroom cottage. Or, if you're bringing the crew, you can rent the entire cottage. Hosts Richard and Diana Jumps invite you to enjoy a full breakfast before you head out to the fishing pond, flower gardens, and in-ground pool. Looking for more sedentary activities? Relax on the patio or enclosed porch.

**A very hospitable granddaughter.**

At the Apple Inn Museum Bed & Breakfast in Attica (765-762-6574), you're welcome to ask hosts Don Martin and Carolyn Carlson about the history of the home. But it's Carolyn who has a special connection to it. The home was built in 1903; its second owners were Carolyn's grandparents, who raised seven children here. Today, you're welcome to stay in one of 10 guestrooms, with private balconies that overlook an enclosed courtyard. Of course, the hot tub is a modern addition, and guests are invited to relax in its soothing, swirling water.

**A quick escape from the city...**

You may be minutes from Indianapolis when you stay at the Ivy House Bed & Breakfast in Fortville (317-485-4800), but you'll feel light years away from its hustle and bustle. Your hosts Jim and Linda Nolte welcome you to visit any time of year. Warm weather gives you a chance to take a leisurely walk through the gardens or relax on the wicker porch swing; in the cooler months you'll really appreciate the candlelit full breakfast and cozy fireplace. In each of three guestrooms, curl up in a toasty robe or bury yourself under a beautiful quilt.

**Or, in the heart of the city...**

Wondering what a visit to Indianapolis would have been like if you had visited in, say, the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century? You can find out when you stay at the Old Northside Bed & Breakfast (317-635-9123). Located in a neighborhood that's on the National Register of Historic Places, this beautiful mansion, built by German immigrant Herman C. DeWenter in 1885, features original cherry and mahogany woodwork. Many antiques adorn the seven guestrooms, but naturally, the mansion has been updated

with modern conveniences, such as cable TV and Jacuzzi bathtubs. Start your day with breakfast in the formal dining room. Your host will also invite you to help yourself to drinks and snacks from the Butler's pantry any time of the day.

### **Just like Grandma's.**

Was there ever anyone who was as glad to have you visiting her home as your grandmother? Hosts Joann and Ed Burkhart have created that same welcoming feeling at Nana's House Bed & Breakfast in Greensburg (877-669-3870). Resting on 10 acres, this 1906 Victorian home is surrounded by creeks, gardens, and a variety of trees. The two parlors and dining room are furnished with antiques. Nana's House has three guestrooms, and, along with breakfast, serves homemade goodies from the pantry.

### **Basketball is only part of the story.**

When the basketball team won the state championship in 1954, the town of Milan earned a special status in the hearts of Hoosiers. Those who visit the town will find that the Huntington Bed & Breakfast at Hillbrook Farm (812-654-2143) only adds to its charm. Located on 30 acres of wooded surroundings, this ranch-style home and horse farm greet you with rocking chairs on the columned front porch and a fire in the grand living room. Hosts John Huntington and Phillip Moeller welcome you to stay in one of three guestrooms and to enjoy the gardens, fishing pond, pool and spa, swimming and fishing lake, shuffleboard court, and miles of trails.

### **Pretend you're British for a day.**

When you first arrive at the James Wilkins House (866-248-9198) in Campbellsburg, you'll get a real look at Victorian splendor. This 1894 Queen Ann home is a true "painted lady;" it's bright with colors that call you to come inside. And while you're sure to enjoy your breakfast and your stay in one of three guestrooms, you're likely to want to come back for an afternoon. Host Diane Callahan takes great pride in presenting elegant afternoon or evening Victorian Teas, complete with freshly baked scones, egg tarts, and Devonshire cream. Groups of two to 16 are welcome; Victorian Teas should be arranged in advance.

### **A captivating place.**

If the Ohio River could talk, it could tell some pretty interesting stories. Ironically, so can a host at a Bed & Breakfast near its banks. Cynthia Changaris, your host at the Storytellers' Riverhouse Bed & Breakfast in Bethlehem (812-293-3845) is a professional storyteller; in fact, her book "Spin Me" received a Parents Choice Award. Guests may hear her spin a tale for them! Other amenities at this three-guestroom retreat include a dock for boaters and folks who want to fish, a front porch swing, a piano, and an incredible view.

**Learn more. And sleep tight.**

The Indiana Bed and Breakfast Association ([indianabedandbreakfast.org](http://indianabedandbreakfast.org)) represents innkeepers dedicated to providing a memorable experience in special overnight accommodations. To order their brochure with a complete list of members, and to find more great places to stay throughout the state, visit [enjoyindiana.com](http://enjoyindiana.com).